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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2816
INFO RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5225
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 8726
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 8800
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1962
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 3982
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 9436
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2705
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1286
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4410
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 8753
RUEHCT/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 8478
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 7935
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3676
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 6019
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 000636

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [PBTS](#) [MOPS](#) [KDEM](#) [KISL](#) [PK](#) [IN](#)
SUBJECT: KASHMIRIS IRATE OVER CUSTODIAL KILLINGS; PM SINGH TAKING ACTION

NEW DELHI 00000636 001.2 OF 003

Classified By: D/PolCouns Atul Keshap, Reason 1.5 (B,D)

[1](#)1. (S) Srinagar was once again gripped with protests on February 7th, as police officials announced that they had dug up five unmarked graves. Custodial Deaths Investigated

[1](#)2. (S) Widespread protests began in Srinagar on January 28th after the GOI began an inquiry into the custodial death of Abdur Rahman Padder -- who has a particularly brutal reputation for encounter killings -- as well as his Deputy and the two junior officers directly implicated in the case. Abuses Not Covered Up This Time

[1](#)3. (S) Human rights lawyer and longtime government critic, Ravi Nair, told Poloff that the investigation is actually a positive step for India.

[1](#)4. (S) Deputy PolCons also met on February 6, with Balraj Puri, a prominent writer on Kashmir and noted human rights activist. In his judgment, the government is not doing enough to address the past. Redressing the Past

[1](#)5. (S) Ravi Nair explained further that the Prime Minister had launched a policy to end the "scorched earth" method of putting down the insurgency. The Prime Minister also recently released a new code of conduct for security forces in Kashmir and the Northeast, which calls for a far greater role for the judiciary. Political Football

[1](#)6. (S) Meanwhile, political wrangling in J&K has dominated the news of the custodial killings investigation. Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front's Role in J&K Elections in 2007?

[1](#)7. (S) Deputy PolCouns met with PDP leader Mufti Muhammad Sayeed on February 9th to discuss the scandal. Mufti said Prime Minister Singh was taking the right steps. A Step in the Right Direction

[1](#)8. (S) Comment: Longtime embassy contact G. Parthasarathy also threw his two cents into the debate in an op-ed accusing New Delhi of pandering to the separatists. Sweeping clear the security mess in Kashmir -- if successful -- will have far-reaching implications for police work throughout India, especially in the Northeast. End Comment.

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